GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:169
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
DEATHS DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION
LAXMAN GILUWA;MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment in its recent study has revealed that environmental pollution is the cause of excessive deaths occurring in major cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the percentage of the total annual increase in the environmental pollution and the comparative increase in the number of deaths which took place during the last two years;

(c) the strategy being formulated by the Government to gear up the measures of controlling environmental pollution; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to implement the above strategy alongwith the progress made by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (A), (B), (C) & (D) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 169 REGAF `DEATHS DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION`, RAISED BY SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA and SHRI MANSINH PATEL, ANSWERED ON 3.3.2003.

(a) & (b) No, Sir. However, this Non-Governmental Organisation, published an article in its magazine `Down to Earth` wherein incidences of morbidity and mortality based on the studies done in few cities in India and across the world were mentioned. However, there is no conclusive data available to establish cause-effect relationship between the environmental pollution and manifestations of various diseases.

(c) & (d) With several steps taken for prevention and control of environmental pollution in major cities, the ambient levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) and Sulphur Dioxide have come down. The strategies adopted and measures taken for control of environmental pollution include Comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal & bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, setting up of net-work of air & water quality monitoring stations, assessment of pollution load, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities & critically polluted areas.